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tion, but the rays were contracted so as to be about half the original length, and many had a minute granular ball at the end, apparently effete matter thrown off from them. At this time the animalcules were returned to the aquarium.

NOVEMBER 7.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty persons present.

The following were presented for publication:—

“A review of Swainson’s Genera of Fishes,” by Joseph Swain.

“Ants as Beneficial Insecticides,” by the Rev. Henry C. McCook, D. D.

The deaths of Benjamin V. Marsh and Isaac Comly, M. D., members, were announced.

On Topaz and Biotite.—Prof. LEIDY exhibited several interesting minerals. One of these was a large crystal of topaz, of dark and decided amethystine hue from Brazil. The yellow topaz is the common kind and this by heating assumes a pink or rose color. He had never seen or read of another of the same color. The crystal is about $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length. The other mineral consisted of plates of muscovite containing hexagonal plates of biotite remarkable for their regularity and beauty. The crystals of biotite ranged from a millimetre to 50 mm. in breadth. The specimens are from Macon Co., N. C. Similar specimens are found in West Philadelphia, but he had seen none from this locality in which the crystals of biotite were so regular.

NOVEMBER 14.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Thirty-two persons present.

The death of J. Norris Emlen, a member, was announced.

On Actinosphærium, etc.—Prof. LEIDY stated that *Actinosphærium Eichhornii*, on which he had made some remarks a few weeks ago, still existed in large numbers in an aquarium in his possession. The animals though in active condition appeared to be habitually sedentary, remaining adherent to the edges of leaves of *Vallisneria* and other aquatic plants, and often, as on a pedicle